



**U.S. Army Corps  
of Engineers  
St. Paul District**

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**Public Affairs**

# Corps Facts

## Flood Control Services

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### **Emergency Bank Protection**

Section 14 of the 1946 Flood Control Act, as amended, permits construction of bank protection works. The work must be to protect endangered highways, highway bridge approaches and other essential, important public works, such as municipal water supply systems and sewage disposal plants, as well as churches, hospitals, schools and other nonprofit public services and known cultural sites endangered by flood-caused bank or shoreline erosion. In addition, work can be performed for endangered habitats. Repair, restoration and/or modification of the eroding stream bank are allowed. Section 14 covers only protection of important and essential public facilities serving the general public. In addition to major highway systems of national importance, eligible highways may also include principal highways, streets and roads of special and significant importance to the local community.

### **Emergency Operations**

One of the Army Corps of Engineers missions is to provide assistance, within its authorities, when natural disasters or other emergencies occur. Emergency preparedness and response is primarily a state and local responsibility. However, in instances when the nature of the disaster exceeds the capabilities of state and local interests, the Corps of Engineers may provide help to save human life, prevent immediate human suffering or mitigate property damage. An imminent threat of unusual flooding must exist. The threat must be established by National Weather Service forecasts or by Corps determinations of unusual flooding from adverse conditions. A written request from the governor for Corps assistance is required. Request must be technically feasible and economically justified.

### **Flood Plain Management Services**

The Corps of Engineers Flood Plain Management Services Program is authorized by Section 206 of the Flood Control Act of 1960, as amended. Under this program, the Corps is authorized, upon request by other federal, state, local or individual entities or Indian Tribes, to provide a full range of technical services and planning guidance on floods and floodplain issues. These services typically include providing flood hazard evaluations to any and all interests; interpreting existing flood data; developing data on the extent, depth and frequency of flooding; and disseminating and developing information on nonstructural options, such as flood proofing and flood plain evacuation. In addition, the Corps can develop emergency evacuation plans for cities and counties, develop comprehensive flood-warning systems, post signs in the floodplains of communities or counties indicating the 100-year flood elevation and determine flood susceptibility of structures for flood insurance purposes.

### **Flood Control Projects (Small)**

The Corps of Engineers has the authority, provided by Section 205 of the 1948 Flood Control Act, as amended, to plan, design and construct certain small flood control projects that have not already been specifically authorized by Congress. Both structural solutions, such as levees, for instance, and nonstructural solutions, such as evacuation, for example, can be considered. A project may also include features for other purposes, such as water supply, provided local interests indicate a need and are willing to contribute the amount representing the added costs incurred as a result of the addition. Each project selected must be economically justified; that is, the benefits resulting from constructing a project must exceed the cost incurred to construct the project. It also must be environmentally acceptable and complete within itself. In addition, each separate project is limited to a total Federal cost of not more than \$7 million, including studies, plans and specifications and construction.